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MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE!

'CRISIS ON EARTH-PRIME!' BOOK FOUR

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FIREBRAND



JOHNNY QUICK



LIBERTY BELLE



ROBOTMAN



STEEL

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

GUEST-STARRING BOTH THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE & JUSTICE SOCIETY!



AQUAMAN



FIRESTORM



HAWKMAN



SUPERMAN



ZATANNA



DR. FATE



GREEN LANTERN



THE HUNTRESS



POWER GIRL



STARMAN

Joe Kuber



WHERE
THE
ACTION
IS!

THE YEAR IS 1942... ON THE
PLANET WE KNOW AS EARTH-TWO.

THE DARK-CLAD VILLAIN--THOUGH HE,
OF COURSE, WOULD NOT CALL HIMSELF
THAT--IS FROM THE YEAR 1947, ON
THAT SELFSAME EARTH.

BUT THE ATOMIC EXPLOSION
WITNESSED BY THE BRITISH
BATTLESHIP BELOW--MORE
THAN THREE YEARS EARLY BY
OUR HISTORY BOOKS--WAS
CAUSED BY A RUSSIAN KGB
STOLEN FROM THE YEAR 1942,
FROM A SUPER-POWER-LESS
WORLD CALLED EARTH-PRIME.*

OUR WORLD.

THIS COULD
BE BAD,
CHIEF!

IF THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY'S COME BACK
FROM FORTY YEARS
IN THE FUTURE, LIKE
YOU SAID--THEY'LL
BE TEAMIN' UP WITH
THEM OTHER TWO
GROUPS DOWN THERE,
AND--

--AND I SHALL
THEN BE ABLE TO
DEAL WITH ALL THE
SUPER-HEROES WHO
MIGHT CONCEIVABLY
HOPE TO THWART MY
PLANS--AT THE
SAME TIME!

YOU THINK
SMALL, KALE.
YOU ALWAYS DID.

I THINK BUS--AND
THAT'S WHY PER
DEGATION IS NOW
ONLY HOURS AWAY FROM
CONQUERING THE
EARTH!

WATCH NOW, AS MY
AERIAL TV CAMERA
ZOOMS IN FOR A CLOSEUP
OF THOSE I SHALL SOON
ANNIHILATE--!

* SEE JUSTICE
LEAGUE # 208,
STILL ON SALE.
--LEN.

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"AH, YES, I SEE THEM NOW: NO LESS THAN FIFTY COSTUMED STALWARTS... NEARLY ENOUGH TO GIVE ME SOME SLIGHT PROBLEM! LET ME COUNT THE WAYS..."

"FIVE I RECOGNIZE FROM 1942 NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE-- ROBBITMAN, LIBERTY BELLE, JOHNNY QUICK, FIREBOMB, AND COMMANDER STEEL, REPRESENTING THE NEW

STAR SQUADRON

"YOU SEE, KALE? I KNOW OF THEM ALL... I HAVE CATALOGUED THEM ALL... AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIFE, I SHALL DESTROY THEM ALL, TO BECOME --"

"MASTER OF WORLDS AND TIME!"

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"I CAN LIKEWISE PICK OUT FIVE WHO'VE *TIME-TRAVELED* BACK FOUR DECADES, IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BEST LEFT UNASKED: *GREEN LANTERN, DR. FATE, POWER GIRL, THE HUNTRESS, AND STARMAN...* ALL MEMBERS OF THIS EARTH'S

JUSTICE SOCIETY

"AND MINGLED WITH THESE ARE THE FIVE *INTERLOPERS* WHO, MY SENSORS REVEAL, CAME HERE NOT ONLY FROM THE *ABO'S* BUT FROM AN ALTERNATE WORLD THEY DESIGN TO CALL *EARTH-ONE*.

"MY COMPUTERS, IN TURN, HAVE IDENTIFIED THEM AS *SUPERMAN, AQUAMAN, ZATANNA, FIRESTORM, AND HAWKMAN* OF THAT WORLD'S

JUSTICE LEAGUE ★★
★★ *AMERICA*

"NOW, KEEP STILL-- WHILE I *EAVER-DROP* ON THE NOT-SO-IDLE CHITCHAT OF THE SO-CALLED '*HEROES*' OF TWO DIFFERENT *EARTHS*, AND AT LEAST AS MANY DIFFERENT *ERAS...*

"...AND LEARN WHAT SUCH CRETINS TALK ABOUT, ONCE THEY'VE BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED!"

WELL, AT LEAST THE NORTH ATLANTIC'S CALM AGAIN...

...AND FREE OF RADIATION, THANKS TO THE COMBINED MAGIC OF DR. FATE AND THAT GIRL ZATANNA.

BUT, BELLE--IS IT POSSIBLE? ATOMIC BOMBS? REMOTE CONTROLLED ROCKETS--IN THE HANDS OF A WOULD-BE DICTATOR FROM JUST FIVE YEARS IN THE FUTURE!?

WE'RE LOOKING AT THE LIVING ARCADE ROBOTMAN.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

EVEN IF THE SUPPOSED "JUSTICE LEAGUES" WERE FAKES--WHICH I'M BETTING THEY'RE NOT--

THAT'S THE RIFAL GREEN LANTERN AND STARMAN OVER THERE--EXCEPT THAT THEY'RE DECADES OLDER THAN WHEN WE SAW THEM LAST, JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO!

ALL TIME-PARADOXES ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT... HOW'D THEY GET HERE, ANYWAY?

I HEARD THAT, STEEL.

AND SINCE YOU ALL-STAR GUNS ARE THE HEROES-IN-RESIDENCE AROUND HERE, YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT A NEED TO KNOW.

WE JLA'YS WERE ALL SET--IN 1982--TO TRADE PLACES WITH SOME JSA'YS, THROUGH A GIZMO WE CALL THE TRANSMATTER CUBE.

SOMETHING WENT WRONG, THOUGH, AND WE WOUND UP GETTING CLOBBERED BY A BUNCH OF SUPER-POWERED BADGUYS WHO SHOWED UP INSTEAD.

THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE CRIME SYNDICATE, AND THEY HAIL FROM A PLACE CALLED--CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?--EARTH-TWO.

MAY I STEP IN NOW, LAD--TO TOTALLY CONFUSE THEM?

WE OF THE JSA, MEANWHILE, HAD BEEN TRAPPED FOR A TIME IN 1980, WHERE WE HAD PREVIOUSLY IMPRISONED THE SYNDICATORS.

WE ESCAPED--AND RETURNED TO FIND THE EARTH A SHATTERED RUIN...A THING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTELANDS AND VILE MUTATIONS.

WE SOON LEARNED, HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT OUR EARTH WE HAD COME BACK TO...BUT A WORLD WE MAY CALL EARTH-PRIME.

"EARTH-PRIME"? OH YEAH, THE JLA TOLD US ABOUT THAT ONE EARLIER.

THAT'S THE EARTH WHERE *NOBODY'S* GOT ANY SPECIAL POWERS, RIGHT? HARD TO BELIEVE!

WHAT MATTERS, JOHNNY, IS THAT WE LEARNED FROM AN OLD MAN THAT, THOUGH WE HAD INDEED RETURNED TO 1982--

--THE NUCLEAR WAR THAT DEVASTATED EARTH-PRIME HAD OCCURRED IN 1962, FOLLOWING SOMETHING HE'D ALWAYS KNOWN SIMPLY AS THE CUBBY MISSILE CRISIS.

DEGATON HAD MANAGED TO ALTER TIME SOMEHOW-- AND WE HAD TO UNDO THE HARM HE'D CAUSED--

--OR RISK UNSUBSED--AT ATOMIC CATASTROPHES, PERHAPS IN ALL TIMELINES!

"SO WE COMBINED OUR EFFORTS-- I, MY ARMS, WHICH OPERATES ON MY WILL POWER--

"... STARMAN, HIS STELLAR-CHARGED CRYSTAL ROD--

"... DR. FATE, THE MAGIC HE INHERITED FROM THE LORDS OF ORDER.

"...WHILE SUPERMAN'S COUSIN POMER GAVE HER IMPENETRABLE CLOAK OVER THE AMYNTRESS... WHO'S THE DAUGHTER OF OUR EARTH'S LATE BATMAN.

"WITHIN MOMENTS, WE LEFT THE OLD MAN BEHIND TO HIS PRAYERS--FOR FATE HAD MANAGED TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF DEGATON'S TIME MACHINE, WHICH HAD TRAVELED IN PART BETWEEN THE VARIOUS EARTHS.

"BUT AG, FORCE-BUBBLE IN TOW, WE STARTED TO MATERIALIZE IN ONE PARTICULAR VERSION OF THE 'REAL WORLD'--

"--BY A CATACLYSM SO POWERFUL--SO DEVASTATING-- THAT EVEN FATE AND I WERE TOSSED AROUND LIKE SO MANY SILICON CHIPS IN A WASHING MACHINE!"

"WE VOWED TO FOLLOW THAT TRAIL--WHEREVER IN TIME OR SPACE IT MIGHT LEAD!

"--WE WERE SUDDENLY STRUCK--



"SOMEHOW, WE
MANAGED TO THROW
UP ADDITIONAL
FORCE FIELDS TO
PROTECT US ALL--"



"--FOR WE'D MATERIALIZED
ON THE PERIPHERY OF AN
ATOMIC EXPLOSION ON
YOUR EARTH--"

"--SOMEWHERE IN THE
MIDDLE OF AN OCEAN--
AND, AS IT TURNED OUT,
IN 1942!"



JUST IN TIME TO
BE RESCUED BY
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE!

I KNOW YOU ALL-STARS
DON'T RECALL YOUR
PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER
WITH DEGATON, BUT--

WHAT YOU SAY
MUST BE TRUE,
LANTERN.

IT'S THE ONLY
ANSWER THAT MAKES
ANY SENSE.



BUT ONLY ONE
ANSWER, ALL THE
SAME, LIBERTY
BELLE-- ONE OF
MANY WE'VE
GOT TO FIND,
AND FAST!

OTHERWISE, IF
WE'VE CALCULATED CORRECTLY,
EVERY EARTH
MAY WELL BE
AFFECTED BY
DEGATON'S
INFERNAL TIME-
TAMPERING--



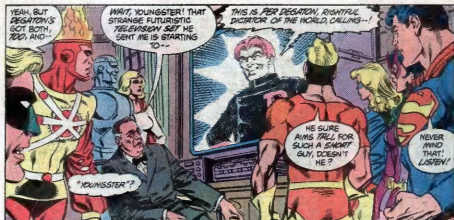
--AND THAT, MR. PRESIDENT,
IS THE LATEST INFORMATION ON
THE UNPARALLELED MENACE
WE FACE, IN THE NEXT FEW
HOURS!

ASTONISHING! I'M BARELY
GETTING USED TO THE IDEA OF ONE
SET OF MASKED HEROES FROM
THE FUTURE--

--WHEN YOU PEOPLE
COME BACK WITH STILL
ANOTHER!

THANK HEAVEN
THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY DID FIND
THEIR WAY BACK
TO OUR TIME,
MR. PRESIDENT.

RIGHT!
AT LEAST NOW
WE KNOW
MORE THAN WE
DID BEFORE--
AND LIKE THEY
SAY, KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER.





THEY WILL BE LAUNCHED,
FROM THREE HIDDEN
LOCATIONS ON EARTH,
EXACTLY FIVE HOURS
FROM NOW--

--AGAINST ANY NATION,
ONE OR ALL OF YOU,
WHICH HAS NOT APPOINTED
ME TO ITS HIGHEST
POST, WITH FULL
DICTATORIAL POWERS!



YOUR MAJOR
CITIES AND THEIR
MULTITUDES WILL
VANISH IN A
MUSHROOM
CLOUD--IN A
SINGLE, SEARING
INSTANT.

THIS HAS BEEN
AN UNRECORDED
ANNOUNCEMENT!



WELL, MY FRIENDS?
WHAT DO YOU
THINK?

CAN YOU FIND
AND STOP THAT
MADMAN IN
TIME?

IF YOU'LL AUTHORIZE
US TO, MR. PRESIDENT--
WE'RE SURE GOING
TO TRY!



I JUST KEEP RECALLING HOW CLOSE DR. HASKOR'S FLYING
EYE CAME TO CONQUERING THE
WORLD--AND IT DON'T POSSESS
ATOMIC
WEAPONS. YOU ARE GOING TO
DEFY DEATH,
AREN'T YOU, SIR?

FRANKLY... I'M NOT CERTAIN I HAVE THE RIGHT TO.

WHAT??



WE SUCCESSFULLY DEFIED
HASKOR, YES--BUT HE
WAS THREATENING
MOSTLY MY LIFE, AND
OUR MILITARY
POWER.

WH-WHAT
WILL YOU DO
THEN, MR.
PRESIDENT,
IF WE FAIL?

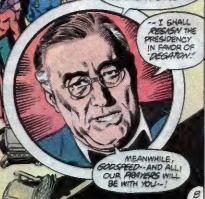
A SINGLE
SUPERHERO,
AS WE CALL IT,
COULD KILL
MILLIONS OF
PEOPLE--AND
DEATH HAS
DOZENS OF
THEM.

I ALMOST DON'T WANT
TO HEAR THE ANSWER
TO THAT, STARMAN.

I FEEL I'VE REALLY
NO CHOICE, MISS
ZATANNA.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
BRITAIN OR RUSSIA
OR THE AXIS MAY DO--
BUT IN FIVE HOURS,
UNLESS YOU CAN ASSURE
ME THAT NO MORE ATOMIC
ROCKETS REMAIN IN THIS
ERA TO THREATEN
AMERICAN CITIES--

--I SHALL
RESIGN THE
PRESIDENCY
IN FAVOR OF
DEATH!



MEANWHILE;
GODSPEED--AND ALL
OUR PRAYERS WILL
BE WITH YOU--!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE GRIM CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM HAVE DIVIDED INTO NO LESS THAN FIVE SMALLER GROUPINGS...ONE OF WHICH IS SOON RACING UPWARD TOWARD SPACE...

I STILL DON'T GET IT, SUPERMAN... DR. FATE.

YOU TWO CAME FROM THE FUTURE-- SO WHY CAN'T YOU GO BACK THERE AND CHANGE EVERYTHING BACK SOMEHOW?

TOO RISKY, ROBOTMAN. TRUST US.

ALREADY, THE DELICATE FABRIC OF THE MULTIVERSE IS DANGEROUSLY ARMED BY DEGATON'S ARROGANT MEDDLING.

TO TAMPER WITH IT FURTHER, IN STILL ANOTHER WORLD OR ERA--!

NO, WE MUST FIGHT HIM AGRE-- ON THE BATTLEGROUND HE HAS CHOSEN--OR RISK CAUSING THE VERY TIME-AND-SPACE CALAMITY WE HOPE TO PREVENT!

IF YOU SAY SO.

WE DO...THOUGH WITH SCARCELY ENOUGH AIR MOLECULES AROUND TO CARRY EVEN OUR VOICES

I KNOW...FOR ONE OF MY FEIN VULNERABILITIES IS TO A LACK OF OXYGEN.

MINE, TOO! I'VE STORED AN AIR BANK IN MY CHEST TO FEED MY BRAIN, AND LUCKILY THE REST OF ME DOESN'T NEED--

SKY NOW! IS THAT WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

THE SPACE SATELLITE OF WHICH DEGATON BOASTED!

HARDLY A SOUVENIR OF 1962--NOT THAT THAT MATTERS MUCH RIGHT NOW.

IT STILL FEELS GOOD TO RIP THIS THING APART, SO HE CAN'T SPY ON US ANY MORE.

HEY! THERE'S SOMETHING THAT LOOKS OUT OF PLACE.

CHECK! REMEMBER, I MAY HAVE SPOTTED IT EASILY--

--BUT WHAT WE'RE REALLY AFTER IS SOME WAY WE CAN TRACE THE LOCATION OF DEGATON--OR HIS MISSILES.

A BOX MADE OF LEAD! MAYBE IT--

NO-- DON'T!

T-TOO LATE--!



HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU--COULDN'T
KNOW!

KRYPTONITE!



MUST GET AWAY
FROM IT!

F-FATE!
CAN YOU--?

I CAN--AND
I SHALL,
SUPERMAN!



I DON'T GET IT! IS HE ALLERGIC
TO THIS GREEN HUNK OF
ROCK?

FAR MORE
THAN THAT,
MAN OF
METAL.

HURL THAT BOX
INTO SPACE-- QUICKLY! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT
IN CRYSTAL THERE FOR A MOMENT.



WILL DO! AFTER ALL,
THE LAST THING I
WANT TO DO JUST
NOW IS CAUSE
SUPERMAN ANY--

MAYBE THAT'S NOT
YOUR FONDEST
DESIRE, SCRAPS--
BUT IT SURE IS
MINE!

SUPES PLOPPED
ME BACK INTO COMBO
A FEW WEEKS AGO--
AND I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D GET A CHANCE AT
REVENGE SO SOON.

WHAT
IN THE--?



YOU CAN'T HURT ME WITH FANCY
WORDS, FATE-- AND I'M NOBODY'S
LACKEY!

AS FOR
KRYPTONITE--
WHY, THAT'S LIKE
MOTHER'S MILK
TO ME, SEE?



THEN LET ME
BATHE YOU IN
SOMETHING
YOU'LL LIKE
FAIR LESS!

NOW, BY THE POWER
OF LIFE AND ORDER--

"ORDER"
DOESN'T LIVE IN
THIS UNIVERSE
ANY MORE, YOU
HOUDINI-IN-A-
HELMET...

ULTRAMAN!
WE SHOULD HAVE
EXPECTED ONE OF
DEGATON'S SUPER-POWERED
LACKEYS TO BE
LURRING ABOUT!



...AND IF YOU DON'T
GET OUTTA MY WAY,
NEITHER WILL
YOU!!

ONLY FATE'S ELDRITCH AURA SAVES HIM
FROM THE FULL FURY OF ULTRAMAN'S
SAVAGE BLOW--



STILL, THE COLORFUL FORM
WHICH STRIKES THE
ORBITING SATELLITE
LIES VERY STILL,
INDEED.



SO-- NOBODY LEFT TO
DUKE IT OUT WITH BUT
ROBBIE THE ROBOT
HERE HUH?

FRIEND, I DON'T
LIKE BEING
CALLED
ROBBIE--

--ESPECIALLY
NOT BY THE LIKES
OF YOU!!



IT IS NOT WHAT YOU WANT, PAL-- IT'S WHAT YOU GET!

WAY I FIGURE IT, THE
FUNK I LEFT BEHIND WHEN
MY EARTH'S LUTHER TOSSED
ME BACK INTO EMBOO #1 IS
WHAT PULLED DEBATION'S TIME
MACHINE TO THE CRIME
SYNDICATE'S FLOATING PRISON--

DC PRESENTS ANNUAL #1-- LEE.

--AND I DON'T
PLAN TO GIVE
DEBATION ANY REASON
TO SEND ME BACK
THERE AGAIN

MISTER, I DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT-- AND
I DON'T MUCH CARE.



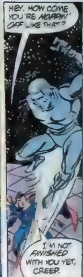
ALL I WANT IS
ONE CLEAR
SHOT AT THAT
MUG OF
YOURS,
AND--

YOU
GOT
IT--



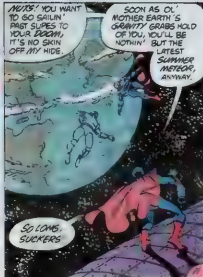
--AND YOU
BLEW IT!

MY--
ARM--!



HEY, HOW COME
YOU'RE MOANIN'
OFF LIKE THAT?

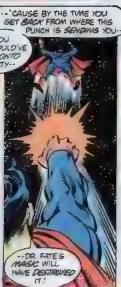
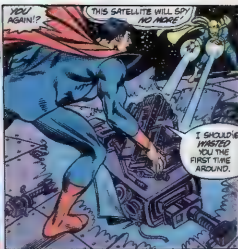
I'M NOT
FINISHED
WITH YOU YET,
CREEP.



NEVER! YOU WANT
TO GO SAILIN'
FAST SUPES TO
YOUR ROOM,
IT'S NO SKIN
OFF MY HIDE.

SOON AS OL'
MOTHER EARTH'S
GRAVITY GRABS HOLD
OF YOU, YOU'LL BE
NOTHIN' BUT THE
LATEST
SUMMER
METEOR,
ANYWAY.

SO LONG,
SUCKERS



THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON, HOWEVER, IS LONG GONE...

ROBOTMAN'S EFFORTS TO PUSH ME TO SAFETY PROPELLED HIM INTO EARTH'S GRAVITY FIELD.

GOT TO REACH HIM-- BEFORE HE'S WASTED BY FRICTION-- IF IT ISN'T ALREADY TOO LATE!

USELESS! I'M NOTHING BUT A PIECE OF JUNK--NOT EVEN ANY WAY I CAN CHANGE DIRECTION AND FACE MY OWN DOOM.

THE FRICTION'S-- ALREADY STARTING TO HEAT MY METAL BODY.

LONG BEFORE IT BURNS AWAY, THOUGH--MY HUMAN BRAIN'LL BE ROASTED ALIVE--

--AND I WON'T EVEN BE GOOD FOR SCRAP METAL ANY MORE--!

I'LL BE NOTHING-- BUT WHAT I MAYBE SHOULD HAVE BEEN, ALL ALONG--

--NAMESLY, DEAD!

HOLD ON, ROBOTMAN!

YOU DIDN'T THINK WE'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU, DID YOU?

AFTER ALL, WE MEN OF STEEL HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER!

NO ANSWER! HE'S BLACKED OUT FROM THE HEAT-- AND NO WONDER

WELL DONE, SUPERMAN! WE CAN LARGELY RESTORE HIS DAMAGED METAL FRAME, BEFORE WE REJOIN THE OTHERS

CHECK, FATE-- BUT THE LAST ONE HEARD, DEGAUSS HAD DOUBLE-CROSSED THE CRIME SYNDICATE BY SENDING THEM TO MY EARTH.

AT LEAST MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS I REACHED HIM BEFORE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE WAS DONE TO HIS BRAIN.

IF THEY'VE ALL KISSED AND MADE UP, IT'S GOING TO MAKE IT EVEN HARDER TO FIND AND DEBRIS THOSE THREE GROUPINGS OF ATOMIC MISSILES--

--AND WE'VE ONLY GOT FOUR HOURS LEFT!

AG, SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC, ONLY
A HUNDRED MILES SOUTH OF JAPAN...

STARMAN--AQUAMAN--
LOOK! JAPANESE
WARSHIPS!

SO MEIRD TO SEE
THEM LIKE THIS--AND
NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO
TAKE THE TIME TO
TRY TO SINK THEM!

I MAY HAVE IMPROVED MY
GRAVITY ROD OVER THE YEARS SINCE
YOU FIRST KNEW ME, LIBERTY BELLE--EVEN TO
THE POINT OF RECHARGING IT THE
COSMIC ROD--

BUT THERE'S STILL ONLY
SO MUCH STELLAR ENERGY
I CAN USE BEFORE I HAVE
TO RECHARGE--

--SO WE'D BETTER SAVE
THAT FOR TAKING OUT
DEATH'S
MISSILES--
PROVIDED WE
CAN FIND
THEM!

CHECK! FROM WHAT
LITTLE I'VE GLEANED
ABOUT ATOMIC
EXPLOSIVES, WE'VE
GOT TO MAKE SURE
THEY'RE NEVER
USED BY
ANYONE.

WHY...SHOULD
WE TELL HER,
AQUAMAN?

LET'S NOT.
IT'D JUST
DEPRESS
HER.

I DON'T EVEN WANT
TO KNOW WHAT
YOU TWO ARE
WHISPERING ABOUT.

BUT WHY ARE WE
HEADING TOWARD
THAT ISLAND?

OH, DIDN'T
I TELL
YOU?

MY EVER-FAITHFUL
STAR-STICK DETECTED
RADIATION
COMING FROM
SOMEWHERE
DOWN THERE.

...WHILE I
SEE WHAT'S
COOKING
IN THE SO-
CALLED
BRINY
DEEP!

YOU KNOW, I'VE HEARD
THERE'S AN AQUAMAN
ON YOUR EARTH, TOO.
BUT I'VE YET TO--

STARMAN!

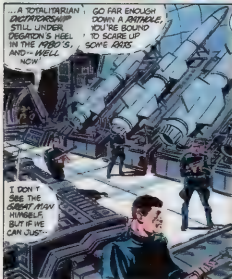
JUST
SPOTTED
IT, BELLE.

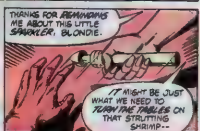
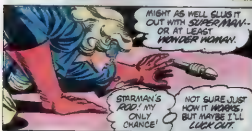
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
RENAME IT THE
DROWNING
ROD.

YOU TWO
LANDLUBBERS
CHECK OUT
TERRA FIRMA...

JAPANESE TROOPS--ANTI-
AIRCRAFT GUNS--HIDDEN
BEHIND CAMOUFLAGE!
BUT, ARE THEY--?

ALIVE--BUT
UNCONSCIOUS!
AND NOT A MARK
ON THEM!





THEN I'LL STRANGLE
YOU WITH MY BARE
HANDS, BEFORE I--

WHY-WHAT'S THAT??

THE
WHOLE
ISLAND'S
SHAKING!

FEELS LIKE
THE BIGGEST
BOMBER RAID--
THIS SIDE OF
JIMMY DOOLITTLE!

SO USED TO HAVING THINGS
HER OWN WAY IS THE
ARROGANT AMAZON THAT,
WHEN SHE SUDDENLY
REALIZES WHAT'S
HAPPENING--

--SHE
DELAys
ACTION
A SPLIT
SECOND--

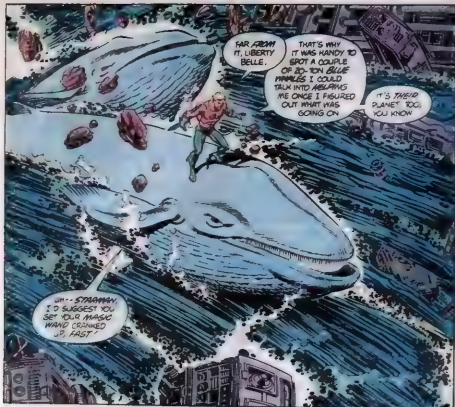
--AND THAT'S
DEFINITELY
LONG ENOUGH!

GOOD OLD
AQUAMAN!

HE
CAME
THROUGH.

I DIDN'T
DREAM HE HAD
ENOUGH SHEER
POWER TO RIP
OPEN THE WHOLE
SIDE OF THE
ISLAND--

--AND
SEND HALF
THE PACIFIC
OCEAN
POURING
IN!

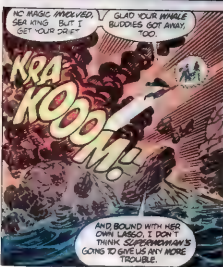


FAR FROM
IT, LIBERTY
BELLE.

THAT'S WHY
IT WAS HANDY TO
SPOT A COUPLE
OF 20-TON BLUE
WHALES I COULD
TALK INTO ABLEING
ME ONCE I FIGURED
OUT WHAT WAS
GOING ON

IT'S THEIR
PLANET, TOO,
YOU KNOW

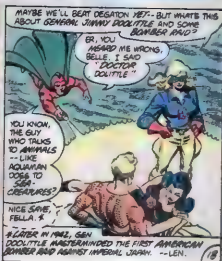
UH... STARMAN,
I'D SUGGEST YOU
SET YOUR MAGIC
HAND CRANKED
UP, FAST!



NO MAGIC INVOLVED,
SEA KING. BUT I
GET YOUR DRIFT

GLAD YOUR WHALE
BUDDIES GOT AWAY,
"OO.

AND BOUND WITH HER
OWN LASSO, I DON'T
THINK SUPERHEROES ARE
GOING TO GIVE US ANY MORE
TROUBLE.



MAYBE WE'LL BEAT DESGATON NEXT-- BUT WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT GENERAL JIMMY DOOLITTLE AND SOME
BOMBER RAID?

ER, YOU
MISHEARD ME WRONG,
BELLE. I SAID
"DOCTOR
DOOLITTLE"

YOU KNOW,
THE GUY WHO TALKS
TO ANIMALS
-- LIKE
AQUAMAN DOES TO
SEA-
CREATURES?

NICE SAVE,
FELLA. *

*LATER IN 1942, GEN
DOOLITTLE MASTERMINDED THE FIRST AMERICAN
BOMBER RAID AGAINST IMPERIAL JAPAN. --LEN.

WHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDWESTERN UNITED STATES...

NO SIGN OF ANY
EXCESS RADIATION
YET... AND WE'VE
BEEN CRISSCROSSING
THE CENTRAL
STATES LIKE MAD!

WE "FUTURE TYPES" TALKED
IT OVER-- AND DECIDED IT MIGHT
CAUSE MORE HARM THAN IT
COULD PREVENT.

IT'S DEGATON'S
NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL
WE'VE GOT TO
CONCENTRATE ON!

SO WE'LL JUST
KEEP ON ROCKING--
TILL THE CLOCK RUNS
OUT FOR THE WHOLE
WORLD.

BUT HOW COME YOU TWO
WON'T TELL ME HOW THIS
WAR'S GONNA TARRY OUT,
EVEN IF WE STOP DEGATON?

NOT EVEN A
HINT WHETHER
LIBERTY BELLE AND
I'LL STILL BE AN
ITEM YEARS
FROM NOW?

SORRY

STILL COMING UP
BLANK--WITH
ONLY A COUPLE
OF HOURS
LEFT!

GOTTA ADMIT, HAWK--
YOU SURE DID A FAST
OVERHAUL ON A LEFT-
OVER GEGGER
COUNTER

DIDN'T WE TELL YOU? KATAR HOL'S
FROM THAMASAR-- A PLANET WAY IN
ADVANCE OF EARTH IN ANY DECADE.

I GUESS "OL'P" HAWKMAN'LL
GET INTO THIS FRAY, TOO--
SINCE HE'S IN UNIFORM.

AFTER ALL, HE'S A
NATURAL LEADER...
CHAIRMAN OF THE USA
LONGER THAN
ANYBODY!

REALLY?
HE'D DO
MORE GOOD
STICKING WITH
THE ALL-
STAR
SQUADRON.

HE'S IN
THE AIR
FORCE,
YOU SAY?

THE ARMY AIR FORCE, YEAH.

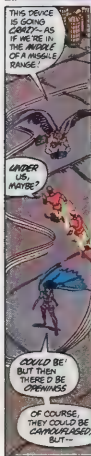
HMM... THEN YOU CAN
GUESS IT'S A SEPARATE
SERVICE, IN MY DAY.

YOU'RE MAKING
ME FEEL ANCIENT
AND I'M NO OLDER
THAN YOU ARE!
I MEAN--

EITHER THOSE
ATOMIC WARHEADS
ARE SOMEWHERE
AROUND HERE--

--OR ELSE
WE'RE FLYING
OVER A
URANIUM
MINE!

HOLD IT, PEOPLE!



GLAD SOMEBODY RECOGNIZED ME... EVEN IF IT'S SOMEBODY HARDLY WORTH BOTHERING WITH.

DESATON'S BOYS WERE CLUED IN ABOUT ME, TOO -- BUT THAT DIDN'T HELP THEM WHEN MY RINGS MOVED 'EM DOWN.

IN CASE YOU COULDN'T GUESS -- THE DRIVE SYMPHONY'S TAKING OVER THIS LITTLE POWER PLAY, FOLKS.

NUES! IF I MET ANY OF YOU CREEPS, I WAS HOPING IT'D BE THAT SECOND-STRING JENNY QUICK!

POWER RINGS! YOU CAN'T PLAN TO USE THOSE MISSILES ON INNOCENT PEOPLE!

NOBODY'S THAT INNOCENT, BIRDIE... NOT EVEN IN THE FRANTIC 40'S.

NOW SAY YOUR PRAYERS, 'CAUSE--

YOU KNOW, I'M ALMOST EMBARRASSED TO BE ABLE TO FLATTEN AN ACP LIKE YOU WITH A MERE BRIDGEMAN--

--BUT THIS IS OUR EARTH YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE!

POWER RINGS WAS READY FOR ANY THING -- ANTI-MISSILE MISSILES, MRVS, WHAT HAVE YOU --

--ANYTHING BUT A PRIMITIVE WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF ONE HE CONSIDERED TOO FEMININE AND WEAK TO GIVE HIM A TUSSEL!

YET NOW, AS HE FALLS, HIS POWERFUL RINGS SHOOT OUT ONE FINAL EMERALD BURST, AND--

THE MISSILES!

HE'S ACCIDENTALLY LAUNCHED ONE OF THEM!



THEN I'M LAUNCHING THE TWO OF US-- ON PURPOSE!

WAY TO GO, HAWK! WE'VE GOT TO ORBIT THAT ROCKET-- BEFORE IT'S MOVING TOO FAST EVEN FOR US!



I'M-- AT ~~AMAZING~~ SPEED-- BUT CAN'T QUITE--

YOU DON'T NEED TO REACH IT AL--



-- SINCE I CAN USE YOU AS A LAUNCH PAD--



-- AND DO SOME PLAIN-AND-FANCY DISMANTLING, JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME

JONNY QUICK IS HARDLY A GUIDED MISSILE EXPERT, LEAST OF ALL IN 1992

BUT FORTIFACOL, EARLIER, HAD GIVEN HIM POWERS AGAINST JUST SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

AND WHEN YOU CAN MOVE AT SUCH BLINDINGLY HIGH SPEED...



...YOU'VE EVEN GOT TIME FOR A BIT OF TIDAL AND ERROR

...AS LONG AS YOU KNOW JUST ENOUGH NOT TO SET OFF A NUCLEAR WARHEAD

AND

THAT

SHOULD

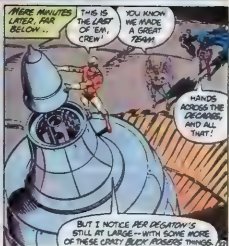
BE



NOW, FEATHERS, IF YOU'RE AS GOOD AT PLAYING ORCH AS ANOTHER WINGED ORCH THAT YOU AND I BOTH KNOW...

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, QUICK.

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, I'VE HAD FORTY YEARS' MORE PRACTICE!



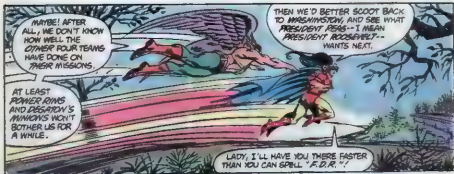
HERE MINUTES LATER, FAR BELOW...

THIS IS THE LAST OF 'EM, CREW!

YOU KNOW WE MADE A GREAT TEAM

HANDS ACROSS THE DECADES, AND ALL THAT!

BUT I NOTICE PER REGATCH'S STILL AT LARGE-- WITH SOME MORE OF THESE CRAZY BUCK ROGERS THINGS.



MAYBE! AFTER ALL, WE DON'T KNOW HOW WELL THE OTHER FOUR TEAMS HAVE DONE ON THEIR MISSIONS.

AT LEAST POWER RINGS AND DESARDY'S ANIMONS WON'T BOTHER US FOR A WHILE.

THEN WE'D BETTER SCOOT BACK TO WASHINGTON, AND SEE WHAT PRESIDENT REAGAN-- I MEAN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT-- WANTS NEXT.

LADY, I'LL HAVE YOU THERE FASTER THAN YOU CAN SPELL 'F.D.R.'!

ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, THE MAN FROM 1947 IS IN A DECIDEDLY LESS JOGULAR MOOD.

ULTIMAN-- SUPERWOMAN-- POWER RINGS! WHEN THEY AREN'T GETTING THEMSELVES DEFEATED, THEY'RE TRYING TO BETRAY ME YET AGAIN!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE DEALT WITH THEM AGAIN-- IF I DIDN'T HAVE THOSE SUPER-HERO GROUPS ALLIED AGAINST ME!

THINK HE'S COZY, KALE?

NO... JUST ENTHUSIASTIC...!

WELL, MY THIRD MISSILE SITE IS THE MOST IMPREGNABLE OF ALL-- AND EVEN IF THOSE JUSTICE-LOVING FOOLS DESTROY IT, I STILL HAVE A FINAL ACE UP MY SLEEVE.

PER DESATCHON WILL CONQUER AN EARTH BEFORE THIS DAY IS DONE--

--OR THERE WILL BE NO EARTHS-- ANYWHERE!

TO BE CONCLUDED--
IN THE PULSE-POUNDING
PAGES OF **JUSTICE LEAGUE #209!**

AND, PROVIDED THE WORLD'S STILL AROUND AFTER THAT, BE HERE NEXT ISSUE TO JOIN THE ALL-STARS AND A VERY SPECIAL GUEST STAR IN DEADLY BATTLE

NUCLEAR, THE MAGNETIC MURDERER! 23

ALL-STAR COMMENTS

© DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA,
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10008

Dear Editor

Like some, I'm crazy about comic-book stories featuring a hero's personal problems and/or tragedies. You know, a little drama mixed in with the adventure. While I'm the first to say that there's nothing wrong with the way you're handling ALL STAR SQUADRON, I'd like to see a little more soap opera pop up now and then. Examples:

Suppose Hawkgirl has a brother, who's a traitor? Or a deserter? What if Firebrand's brother dies? Heartbroken and angry, she then actually kills the next Japanese or Nazi she encounters. The public would praise her, but how would Brandy (and the All-Stars) react when the deed is done? And how about if some heroes fail in a mission? I don't mean lose the first round—I mean flat-out, face-in-the-mud, publicly-disgraced, harmful-to-the-war-effort FAILED! The other All-Stars would be understanding, but would the public—or the government? Stuff like that. But Roy may already have something like this on his back burner. If so, forget I said anything. Here are some lighter topics.

I like Hawkgirl's "new" helmet, but I hate Robotman's face. Those bolts in his cheeks make his head look like a patchwork repair job.

Does Liberty Belle have an overbite, or is it just a nervous habit of chewing her lower lip? (The artists give me this impression.)

If Charles McVider is legally "blind," how can he be allowed to practice medicine?

David R. Weed
6451 E Garwood Circle
Knoxville, TN 37918

You're right, Dave—Roy does have a number of more "personal" stories (I hate to call them "soap opera") on the back burner. In fact, a situation similar to what you suggested with Firebrand appeared in issue #13. But Roy's thought has always been that, for the first few months after Pearl Harbor, such personal problems would definitely be overshadowed by the need to go all-out for the war effort. As time goes on, however, you'll be seeing more of the kind of thing your first paragraph requests. As for your other questions, in brief:

(1) Robotman's face was intended for utility, not beauty. (2) Liberty Belle—an overbite? Better not suggest that to Johnny Quick! (3) Dr. McVider doesn't generally practice medicine, having become a mystery writer. However, with the aid of his assistant Myra Mason (mentioned in issue #10 and featured in most of Dr. Mid-Nite's old adventures in ALL AMERICAN in the '40's), he can still carry on research work—as he did in ALL-STAR COMICS #11, 1942, which inspired the sequence you're referring to.

—R T

Dear Roy

A very nice Kubert cover this issue, covering a story that wasn't as good as I might have liked. You see, I don't really care about the ALL-STAR SQUADRON; it's the Justice Society that I groove on. Characters like Robotman, the Shining Knight, Liberty Belle, Firebrand, Johnny Quick, and especially that Steel monstrosity do nothing for me. They have no heroic heritage behind them, no original and interesting powers—very unlike the JSA, which has Hourman, Dr. Mid-Nite, and Starman, to mention just a few I'd really like to see you concentrate on them. Roy

Brian Doherty
10140-7 Arrowhead Dr. E.
Jacksonville FL 32217

All three of the JSAs you mentioned will reappear soon, Brian—but we have to admit we think you've allowed your (understandable and shared) love for the Justice Society to blind you somewhat to the virtues of other characters. "No heroic heritage" for Robotman... the Shining Knight... Johnny Quick... Liberty Belle? While none of these heroes was ever a member of the JSA, they had equally long (or even longer!) careers in the Golden Age of Comics—and indeed, except for the vagaries of luck, it's they who might have been JSAs and thus been appearing in JLA/JSA team-ups for the past twenty years, rather than some of the ones you mention. In fact, before we settled on the name ALL-STAR SQUADRON for this revived title, one proffered suggestion was that we simply expand the membership of the JSA to include the above something which, logically, might easily have been done under President Roosevelt during World War Two. We preferred to form a new super-group and keep the JSA intact (though dormant for the moment)... but not because there's anything inherently inferior about the foursome you mention above... or even the modern-day additions of Commander Steel and the new Firebrand.

However, it was always our intention to feature loads of guest-stars and semi-regulars, including probably all of your favorites. So stick around another issue or two, and we think you'll be pleasantly surprised, led

—R T

Dear Roy,

From beginning to end, "Star-Smasher's Secret" (ALL-STAR SQUADRON #11) was great. The art improves with every issue (clipped as it sounds), and the plots have woven from one issue to the next without a break.

This issue you gave us a valuable look into the character of Hawkgirl. Her remarks about not being a full-time mask-and-hero type, and the Atom's comeback, added some needed depth to her characterization in this series. Up to now, she's seemed like Hawkman in a woman's body. I also liked the flashback to the Hall home, and the row of hawk-masks. How many of these has Carter actually worn, and when?

Anthony R. Cardno
238 Center Dr.
Mahopac, NY 10641

Hawkman's worn each of them at various times, Tony. Briefly and moving from left to right: (1) This was his main mask until about 1945, when Joe Kubert took over, and thus is quite possibly the helmet Hawkman should be wearing in ALL-STAR SQUADRON... but we found the 1945-47 Kubert version more pleasing to our eye. What do you think? (2) This one just for a couple of issues around '47-'48. (3) The main Kubert version, '46-'47. (4) A few issues in '48—same time Hawkgirl wore the mask she now sports. (5) The last few issues in '48 (of FLASH COMICS, where Hawkman was featured) before... (6) The cloth rendition, worn from FLASH #98-104 as well as in ALL-STAR COMICS #42-67. The only mistake was in the coloring: Each of the beaked masks should have had precisely the same areas orange and yellow, respectively, as the current version; there was 'way too much orange in some. But we couldn't expect colorist Carl Gifford, who does such a splendid job in each issue of ALL-STAR, to go poring over a ten-year run of FLASH COMICS just for one panel, could we?

And now, left over from a letters page that had to be dropped a few issues back, here are some random requests for heroes which you, or at least one or more of your fellow readers, would like to see featured in early stories of the All-Stars.

Dear Editor,

Only one thing bothers me about the timeline of the series, namely the rate at which it is progressing. By #9 we'd just reached New Year's Eve 1941-42, so that's 25 days covered in the first nine issues. At that rate, we'll reach the Japanese surrender on Sept. 1, 1945 (1,340 more days) during issue #492 (cover-dated August 2022 if you stay at a monthly frequency). Such a quick end to such a potentially great series as this one is unpleasant to contemplate, maybe you'll have to slow down the passage of time in this mag. Of course, one does wonder how long a veteran like Roy will be able to stay on this mag. Why, in August 2022, Roy will be... but enough of numbers and statistics for this letter!

"T.M. Maple"
Toronto, Ont., Canada

—RT

Quite enough, thanks!

Guest appearances of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Robin, Spectre, Dr. Fate, and Green Lantern. Art Kowalek, Wilmington, Delaware. From the cover of ALL-STAR SQUADRON #1... Crimson Avenger, Vigilante, Sandman, Tarantula, Captain Triumph, Green Arrow, Wildcat, Star-

Spangled Kid and Stripes. Eddy Stanton, Madleen, CN. Captain Triumph, Kid Eternity, and Midnight from the old Quality Comics. Ray Bottom, Jr., Detroit, MI. Where are the Seven Soldiers of Victory? Kevin T. Brown, Norridge, IL. Not only Captain Marvel, but also such Fawcett heroes as Bulletman, Mr. Scarlet, Spy-Smasher Greg Brooks, Shrewsbury, NJ. The original Red Tornado. Ravi Mathotra, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. More of the Spectre, Dr. Fate, Starman, and Hourman. Unsigned. More heroes from minorities, or non-Americans. Justin J. Major, Wessington, SD

See what we're up against? Or actually, what we agree with? Except for the Fawcett heroes, most of whom are unavailable at the present time (and even the Shazamers are problematical just now), you'll be seeing nearly all of the above, if you haven't already, in upcoming issues of ALL-STAR SQUADRON. But give us a while, okay? After all, we only have 23 or so pages per issue (excluding our still-on-sale ANNUAL #1, co-starring GL, Flash, Wonder Woman, Atom, Wildcat, and the Guardian)... and a membership roster to make even the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES blush! But we're trying, friends: we're trying!

—Roy Thomas



ON SALE SEPTEMBER 2ND

THE FURY OF FIRESTORM #7—Held hostage by a French Canadian separatist terrorist, it's impossible for Ronnie Raymond to slip away and become Firestorm. How then can he prevent Plastique from blowing herself—and her hostages—to bits? The answer will astound you! Story by Gerry Conway, art by Pat Broderick and Rodin Rodriguez.

ARAK, SON OF THUNDER #18—With Satyrus still at his side, the Son of Thunder arrives in Byzantium, still searching for Valde. Story by Roy Thomas

THE BEST OF DC DIGEST #31—Reprinted here are the incredible initiations of four of the Justice League of America's most popular members. Black Canary, Red Tornado, Zatanna and the Elongated Man. Cover by Gil Kane

DC COMICS PRESENTS #52—In this special issue drawn by Keith Giffen, Superman teams up with the DOOM PATROL! Giffen also did the cover. Paul Kupperberg scripted

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #209—This is the thrilling wrap-up of the five-part JLA/JSA-ALL-STAR SQUADRON team-up, an epic which has spanned decades! By Gerry Conway, Don Heck and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by George Perez

BLACKHAWK #253—The courageous Blackhawk band in more thrilling World War II battle glory! By Mark Evanier and Dan Spiegle, with a cover by Dave Cockrum

WONDER WOMAN #298—Gena Colan and Dan Mishkin continue the chronicles of the Amazing Amazon. Joey Cavalieri continues the story of the Huntress and Blackwing

ADVENTURE COMICS DIGEST #494—The second of the all-new CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN series retells Rocky's origin, as he dukes it out with some fight fixers. Story by Bob Rozakis, art by George Tuska and Andy Mushynsky. And the line-up of tremendously collectible reprints continues with two more early LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES tales. The story in

which Superboy and Mon-El first meet is retold in "Superboy's Big Brother," and the first appearance of one of the deadliest teams the LSH has ever fought—The Legion of Super Villains—is reprinted. Other classic reprints include AQUAMAN in "To Win is To Lose" by Skates and Apero, THE SPECTRE in "Sinister Lives of Captain Skull," and "Captain Marvel Faces Fear." This nifty little package is topped off by Keith Giffen's cover

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 9TH

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE MINI-SERIES #1—Picking up where last month's issue left off, Skeletor, in search of the two power swords that would make him Eternia's ruler, kidnaps the Goddess. In exchange for her freedom, He-Man, Teela, Man-At-Arms, Battle-cat and Stratos must return the swords from Imbo. The story is by Paul Kupperberg and is drawn by George Tuska.

THE SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING #8—Holland and his traveling companions Lizabeth Tremayne and Dennis Barclay find "The Island of Broken Dreams," a fantastic place where giant apes climb the Empire State Building and an exasperated American runs a little out of the way bistro called Rick's Cafe Americain. It's written by Marty Pasko. Cover and insides drawn by Tom Yeates

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #26—This is a special issue, but not in the terms we usually use the phrase to mean. Marv Wolfman, George Perez and Romeo Tanghal present a realistic and gut-wrenching story based on the true stories of actual teenage runaways. It's set in New York City's Times Square, and features Raven, who comes to grips with what it means to live on Earth. This is the kind of story that could garner some media coverage. The cover is by Perez

G1 COMBAT #248—Featuring two Kanigher HAUNTED TANK stories "Invitation to an Execution" and "Iron Cross For A Tank Crew," an O.S.S. story by Kanigher and E.R. Cruz, and "Three Roads To Pearl" by Arnold Drake and Angel Trinidad. Also "Stolen Battle" by Keshten and Talbot. Joe Kubert cover

THE FLASH #316—The second part of the Goldface story, by Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino and Dennis Jensen. Cover by Giffen

BATMAN #354—Featuring the haunting of Boss Thorne, by Gerry Conway, Don Newton and John Calnan. The stories in BATMAN will now be full-length. Cover by Keith Giffen

SUPERMAN #378—Paul Kupperberg writes this story about Col. Future that evokes the memory of science-fiction writer Edmond Hamilton. Visually by Curt Swan and Dave Hunt; cover by Rich Buckler

"AN YES, I SEE THEM NOW NO LESS THAN FIFTEEN COSTUMED STALWARTS. ASSEMBLY ENOUGH TO GIVE ME SOME SLIGHT PROBLEM LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

FIVE I RECOGNIZE FROM 1942 NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. FRODO BAGGINS, LIBERTY BELLE, JOHNNY QUICK, FREEDOM, AND COMMANDER STEEL, REPRESENTING THE NEW

STAR SQUAD



YOU SEE HALE? I KNOW OF THEM ALL. I HAVE OBTAINED THEM ALL AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIFE I SHALL DESTROY THEM ALL TO BECOME

"MASTER OF WORLDS AND TIME!"

ROY THOMAS, ADRIAN GONZALES & JERRY ORDWAY, JOHN COBURN & CARL GIFFORD DESIGNERS
LEN WEIN EDITOR

PG CONSULTANT
GERRY CONWAY

I CAN LIKEWISE PICK OUT FIVE WHO'VE SOMEHOW TRAVELED BACK FOUR DECADES. IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BEST LEFT UNASKED. GREEN LANTERN, DR. FATE, POWER GUE, THE MONITORS, AND STARDOM. ALL MEMBERS OF THE EARTH'S

JUSTICE LEAGUE



AND MINGLED WITH THESE ARE THE FIVE ANTELOPES WHO, MY SENSORS REVEAL CAME HERE NOT ONLY FROM THE EARTH'S BUT FROM AN ALTERNATE WORLD THEY DESIGNED TO CALL EARTH ONE

MY COMPUTERS, IN TURN HAVE IDENTIFIED THEM AS SUPERMAN, AQUAMAN, BATMAN, FREEDOM, AND HANDBAND OF THE WORLD'S

JUSTICE LEAGUE
COS PLAY AREA

NOW KEEP STILL WHILE I GIVES- DROP ON THE NOT SO-OLD CHIEF OF THE SO-CALLED AGES OF TWO DIFFERENT EARTHS AND AT LEAST AS MANY DIFFERENT ERAS



AND MINGLED WITH THESE ARE THE FIVE ANTELOPES WHO, MY SENSORS REVEAL CAME HERE NOT ONLY FROM THE EARTH'S BUT FROM AN ALTERNATE WORLD THEY DESIGNED TO CALL EARTH ONE

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NOW KEEP STILL WHILE I GIVES- DROP ON THE NOT SO-OLD CHIEF OF THE SO-CALLED AGES OF TWO DIFFERENT EARTHS AND AT LEAST AS MANY DIFFERENT ERAS

"AH, YES, I SEE THEM NOW: NO LESS THAN FIFTEEN COSTUMED STALWARTS... NEARLY ENOUGH TO GIVE ME SOME MIGHT PROBLEM! LET ME COUNT THE WAYS..."

"FIVE I RECOGNIZE FROM 1942 NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE-- ROBOTMAN, LIBERTY BELLE, JOHNNY QUICK, FIREBRAND, AND COMMANDER STEEL, REPRESENTING THE NEW

STAR SQUADRON



"YOU SEE, KALE? I KNOW OF THEM ALL... I HAVE CATALOGUED THEM ALL... AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIFE, I SHALL DESTROY THEM ALL, TO BECOME--"

"MASTER OF WORLDS AND TIME!"

ROY THOMAS, ADRIAN GONZALES & JERRY ORDWAY, JOHN COSTANZA, LEN WEIN
WRITER ARTISTS EDITOR

Plot consultant:
GERRY CONWAY

"I CAN LIKEWISE PICK OUT FIVE WHO'VE TIME-TRAVELED BACK FOUR DECADES, IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BEST LEFT UNASKED: GREEN LANTERN, DR FATE, POWER GIRL, THE HUNTRESS, AND STARGEMAN... ALL MEMBERS OF THIS EARTH'S

JUSTICE SOCIETY



"AND MINGLED WITH THESE ARE THE FIVE INTERLOPERS WHO, MY SENSORS REVEAL, CAME HERE NOT ONLY FROM THE 1980'S BUT FROM AN ALTERNATE WORLD THEY DESIGN TO CALL EARTH-ONE."

"MY COMPUTERS, IN TURN HAVE IDENTIFIED THEM AS SUPERMAN, AQUAMAN, ZATANNA, FIRESTORM, AND HAWKMAN OF THAT WORLD'S

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA

"NOW, KEEP STILL-- WHILE I LEAVES-DROP ON THE NOT-SO-IDLE CHITCHAT OF THE SO-CALLED 'HEROES' OF TWO DIFFERENT EARTHS, AND AT LEAST AS MANY DIFFERENT ERAS..."

★★★ SPECIAL MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVIEW ★★★



WHERE SCIENCE ENDS--MAGIC BEGINS...

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE



A SPECIAL
**FREE
GIFT**
TO YOU
FROM THE
NEW DC!

HE-MAN FIGHTS THE MYSTIC FORCES OF THE
EVIL SKELETOR-- WITH THE TIMELESS KINGDOM
OF ETERNIA ITSELF AT STAKE!

THE UNIVERSE IS A BIG PLACE

THE MULTIVERSE IS EVEN BIGGER! FOR EVERY DECISION A MAN CAN MAKE, THERE ARE A MILLION CHANCES WHERE EACH AND EVERY ALTERNATIVE TAKES PLACE AS WELL.

FOR EVERY POSSIBILITY OF EVOLUTION THERE LIKEWISE EXISTS A PLACE MANY ARE SO ALIKE THAT AS SMALL A THING AS ONE PERSON MAY BE ALL THAT DIFFERENTIATES IT FROM THE UNIVERSE NEXT DOOR.

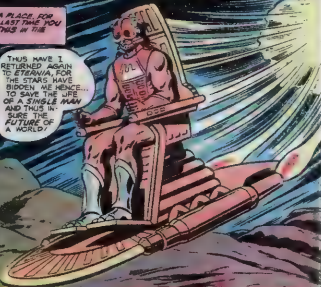
OTHERS ARE FAR FROM THE WORLD WE KNOW -- WORLDS WHERE THE PREDOMINANT LIFE FORMS ARE EXACTLY LIKE US... BUT CIVILIZATION HAS TAKEN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT TURN!

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

ETERVIA IS JUST SUCH A PLACE, FOR IN TRUTH, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW A SIGHT SUCH AS THIS IN THE SKIES OVER EARTH--?

I'VE LONG TRANSFERRED THE MULTITUDE OF DIMENSIONAL PLANES WITH BUT THE STARS AS MY GUIDE AND INSPIRATION-- TOO LONG FOR ZODAC TO IGNORE THE SIGNS THEY GIVE ME THIS DAY!

THUS HAVE I RETURNED AGAIN TO ETERVIA, FOR THE STARS HAVE BIDDEN ME HENCE... TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MAN AND THUS INSURE THE FUTURE OF A WORLD!



FATE is the KILLER

PAUL KUPFERBERG
WRITER

CURT SWAN & DAVE HUNT
ARTISTS

BEN ODA
LETTERER

ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORIST

PAUL CLEVELAND
TALLEST

DAVE MANAK
EDITOR

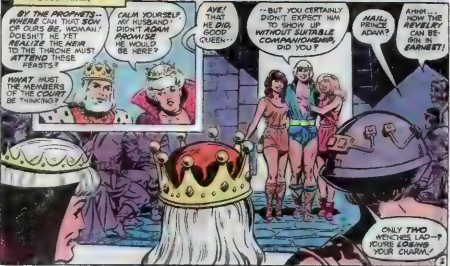
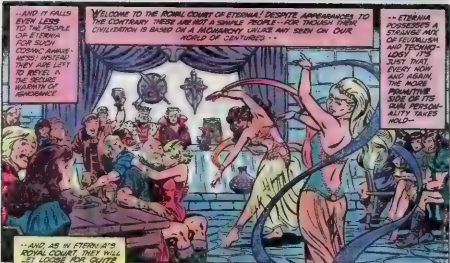
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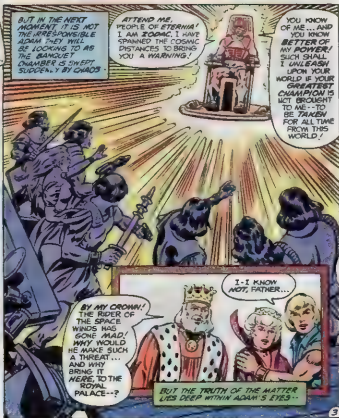
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... AND THE SECRET THAT IS HIS ALONE TO KNOW OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ETERNIA...

R... WHICH REMAINS AS AN OPEN BOOK TO THE RIDER OF THE SPACEMWAYS!



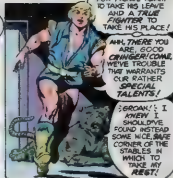
MAJESTY! I THOUGHT I HEARD A COMMOTION IN... BY THE DARK GODS! TO ARMS, MY FAITHFUL TROOPS!

SWORD AND BLASTER WILL DO LITTLE AGAINST MIGHTY ZODAC, TEELA! I SUGGEST YOU...



AND I MOST "RESPECTFULLY" SUGGEST YOU STICK TO YOUR WENCHING AND CAROUSING, ADAM, AND LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO THOSE OF US VERSED IN SUCH THINGS!

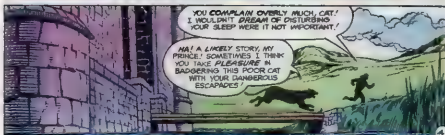
ER... AS YOU SAY, GUARDSWOMAN...



IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR PRINCE ADAM TO TAKE HIS LEAVE AND A TRUE FIGHTER TO TAKE HIS PLACE!

HAH, THERE YOU ARE, GOOD CRINGER! COME, WE'VE TROUBLE THAT WARRANTS OUR RATHER SPECIAL TALENTS!

¡GROAN! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE FOUND INSTEAD SOME NICE, SAFE CORNER OF THE STABLES IN WHICH TO TAKE MY REST!



YOU COMPLAIN OVERLY MUCH, CAT! I WOULDN'T DREAM OF DISTURBING YOUR SLEEP WERE IT NOT IMPORTANT!

HA! A LICKLY STORY, MY PRINCE! SOMETIMES I THINK YOU TAKE PLEASURE IN BADGERING THIS POOR CAT WITH YOUR DANGEROUS ESCAPADES!



THE AIR IS STILL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE BEYOND THE ROYAL CASTLE. SAVE FOR THE PLAINATIVE CRY OF A DARK BIRD OF PREY -- AND THE POUNDING FOOT-FALL OF THE PRINCE AND HIS ORT --



--AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT--

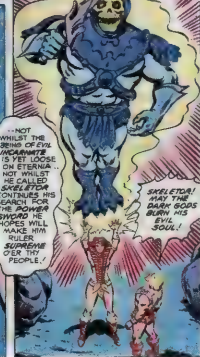
YE HAVE ANSWERED MY SUMMONS WITH HASTE, SWEET PRINCE --



--AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR THOU WOULD NOT BE SO CALLED DID NOT THE SORCERESS HAVE NEED OF THY POWERS!



I AM EVER AT YOUR COMMAND, GODDESS! SPEAK THEN AND SAY HOW MIGHTY HE-MAN AND FAITHFUL BATTLE CAT MAY BE OF SERVICE --



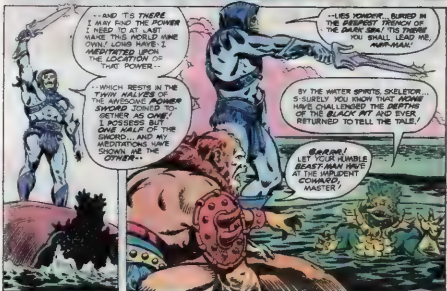
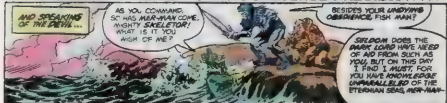
YE MAY RELY NOT UPON AID FROM BEYOND IN THY MISSION, HE-MAN... NOR MUST YE LET ANY STAND IN THE WAY OF COMPLETING THE TASK I HAVE SET TO THEE!

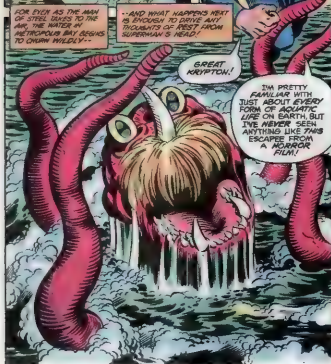
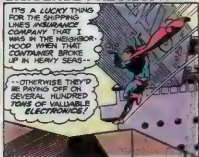
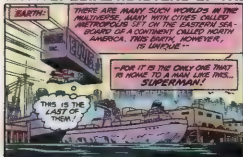
GO NOW, MY WARRIOR, AND MAY THE GODS BE WITH THEE!

MY THANKS, GODDESS! HE-MAN WILL NOT FAIL YOU! SKELETON SHALL BE STOPPED!



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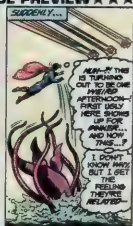


--IF YOU KNEW
JUST HOW
UNPALATABLE
I COULD BE!



I DON'T KNOW WHERE
YOU CAME FROM OR
WHAT YOU WANT
AROUND HERE, BUT
I THINK IT'D BE
BEST FOR ALL
CONCERNED IF
WE WENT FOR
A LITTLE TRIP--

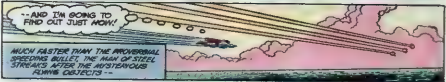
--FAR AWAY
FROM ANY
INHABITED
LANDMASS!



SUDDENLY...

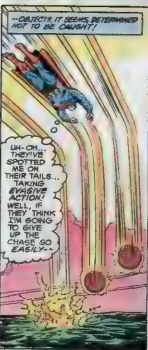
HEH--IF THIS
IS TURNING
OUT TO BE ONE
WEIRD
AFTERNOON--
FIRST UGLY
HERE SHOWS
UP FOR
PINKER...
AND NOW
THIS...?

I DON'T
KNOW WHY,
BUT I GET
THE
FEELING
THEY'RE
RELATED--



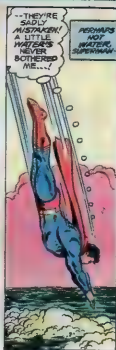
--AND I'M GOING TO
FIND OUT JUST NOW!

MUCH FASTER THAN THE PROVERBIAL
SPEEDING BULLET, THE MAN OF STEEL
STREAKS AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS
FLYING OBJECTS --



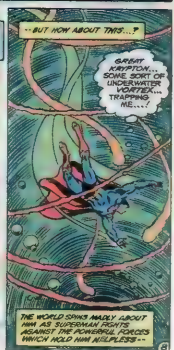
--OBJECTS, IT SEEMS, DETERMINED
NOT TO BE CAUGHT!

UH-OH...
THEY'VE
SPOTTED
ME ON
THEIR TAILS...
TAKING
EVASIVE
ACTION!
WELL, IF
THEY THINK
I'M GOING
TO GIVE
UP THE
CHASE SO
EASILY--



--THEY'RE
SADLY
MISTAKEN!
A LITTLE
WATER'S
NEVER
BOtherED
ME...!

PERHAPS
NOT
WATER,
SUPERMAN...

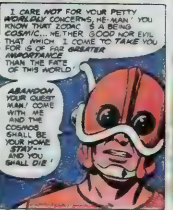
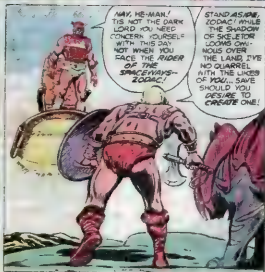


--BUT HOW ABOUT THIS...?

GREAT
KRYPTON...
SOME SORT OF
UNDERWATER
VORTEX...
TRAPPING
ME...!

THE WORLD SPINS MADLY ABOUT
HIM AS SUPERMAN FIGHTS
AGAINST THE POWERFUL FORCES
WHICH HOLD HIM HELPLESS--

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TASTE IT YOU SMALL, FELINE! FOR WITH ZODAC SO DISPATCHED, SKELETOR YET AWAITS--

--AND I CAN PROMISE YOU A VERIFIABLE FEAST!



DO NOT BE IN SUCH HASTE, MORTAL! THE BATTLE HERE HAS BUT BEGUN!

THE ETERNIAN HERO MAY ONLY GAZE IN AWE AT HIS Foe's WORDS, NONE HAVE EVER WITHSTOOD SO EFFORTLESSLY HIS MIGHT AND HE-MAN KNOWS ZODAC SPEAKS TRUE!

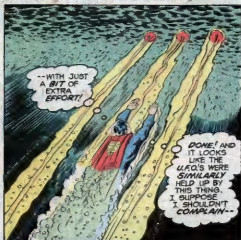
AND THUS, DOES HE REAR FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS WORLD--

--BELIEVING THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN HELP!



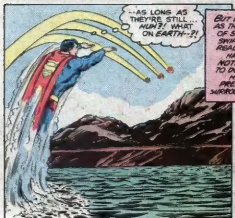
HE-MAN IS WRONG... BUT NEITHER HE, NOR THE UNWITTING HELP YET KNOW THIS!

THANK THE STARS-- WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HOLDING ME IN THIS VORTEX IS WEAKENING EVER SO SLIGHTLY! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET FREE--



--WITH JUST A BIT OF EXTRA EFFORT!

DONE! AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE U.F.O.'S WERE SIMILARLY HELD UP BY THIS THING. I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN--



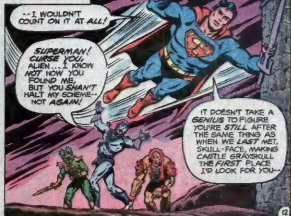
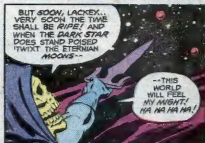
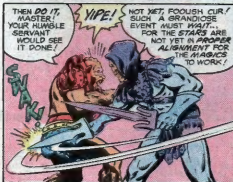
--AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL... HUH?! WHAT ON EARTH--?!

BUT EARTH, AS THE MAN OF STEEL SWIFTLY REALIZES, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS PRESENT SURROUNDINGS.



WAIT... I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE! I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE... ON ETERNIA!

AND JUDGING FROM MY PAST EXPERIENCE, I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE CAUSE OF MY BEING HERE AGAIN WOULD HAVE TO BE--





SUPERMAN CAN ONLY SHUDDER AT SKELETOR'S THREAT, BUT THE SWORD, AT LEAST, IS OUT OF HIS HANDS FOR THE NOW...



